THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir. Construction works or setting up of Kudankulam Atomic Power Plant (2 units of 1000 MWe each), has commenced.

(b) and (c) Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd./Department of Atomic Energy (NPCIL/DAE) is giving due regard to the public opinion and their concerns on the implementation of the project and taking appropriate steps to dispel the fears about the safety of the plant from the minds of the people. The reactors proposed for Kudankulam project fall in the category of advanced reactors being developed by the Western European Countries and Japan. It has got the most modern safety features in-built in the design to avoid any risk of radiation hazard to the public. The plant will be implemented in strict conformity to all the applicable regulations and norms of the State/Central regulatory authorities like Pollution Control Boards and Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB). In addition, public and social activists are being kept informed, through "Public Awareness Programmes", with a view to allaying their possible fears regarding safety of operations.

Uranium reserves in Chhattisgarh

†1909. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are indications of availability of high quality uranium reserves in Chhattisgarh;

(b) whether it is also a fact that availability of the huge reserves of uranium has been confirmed in Janjgir, Champa and Bastar district of the State as per the survey of the Central Atomic Mineral Department; and

(c) if so, by when mining of these uranium reseves is proposed to be taken up?

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD) of this Department has located uranium occurrences in different parts of Rajnandgaon, Raigarh, Surgoja, Janjgir, Champa and Bastar Districts in Chhattisgarh.

(c) At present investigation in some of these areas are in different stages and the uranium reserves in these areas, if any, would be estimated after completion of detailed investigations. The viability of mining the uranium would be known only after completion of the investigations.

Programme for entrepreneurs

1910. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have proposed rupees 100 crore programme for entrepreneurs and small and medium enterprises during the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Department of Information Technology has not proposed any such program for small and medium enterprises in the Tenth Five Year Plan.

Action plan to redress public grievances of telephone consumers

1911. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are executing any action-plan to redress public grievances of telephone consumers and early clearance of faults in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?